



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

21 JULY 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Visiting Stanford Researcher Charged with Lying About Ties to Chinese Military

(U) A Chinese woman living in the United States as a visiting researcher at Stanford University has been charged with lying about her ties to the Chinese military, federal prosecutors said yesterday. Song Chen, 38, is accused of obtaining a visa by material false statements, the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California said. Song is not accused of stealing or sending any materials to China, but she is accused of lying on visa forms in 2018 to apply to go to Stanford as a neurologist. Court documents say Song answered that she had been in the Chinese military from September 2000 to June 2011, and that she worked at "Xi Diaoyutai Hospital" in Beijing. Federal prosecutors say those were lies, and that was a member of the People's Liberation Army when she entered the US in 2018.

SOURCE: 20 July 2020, [NBC News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – \$1.4 Million in Meth Located at Border Crossing

(U) Otay Mesa – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers on Sunday seized more than \$1 million worth of methamphetamine hidden inside a shipment of green onions at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. Shortly after noon, US CBP officers stopped a man hauling what was described as "mint leaves and other spices" in a tractor-trailer, the agency said. During an inspection, officers found 40 wrapped packages of a "crystal-like substance" among green onions and further testing determined it was meth, CBP said. Officers estimated the load to be worth \$1.4 million.

SOURCE: 20 July 2020, [Fox 5 San Diego](#)

(U) Mexico – Juarez Cartels Recruiting Americans to Smuggle Narcotics

(U) Juarez – Drug cartels are reportedly trying to recruit Americans to help smuggle drugs. Mexican authorities say drugs were stuck in Mexico and cartel groups were looking for ways to cross drugs into the US because of bridge restrictions enacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chihuahua Deputy Attorney General says over the last few weeks there has been a significant increase in the number of detentions of American citizens. They say so far, 36 have been arrested and more than 450-pounds of drugs like meth, cocaine, and heroin have been confiscated.

SOURCE: 20 July 2020, [KTSM](#)

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Stops Two Human Smuggling Attempts

(U) Laredo – US Border Patrol officers foiled two alleged human smuggling attempts over the weekend. The first incident happened on Sunday when agents at the I-35 checkpoint encountered a white pickup truck hauling a travel trailer. When agents searched the trailer, they found 30 undocumented immigrants believed to be from Mexico and Guatemala. The second incident happened later that afternoon when a tractor-trailer approached the I-35 checkpoint and a service canine alerted to the presence of concealed humans. When agents searched the vehicle, they found 12 individuals who were from Mexico and illegally present in the US.

SOURCE: 20 July 2020, [KGNS](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Accuses Chinese Hackers of Stealing Virus Trade Secrets

(U) Washington – The US Justice Department has accused two Chinese hackers of working for China's government to steal "terabytes" of data on COVID-19 research from companies in 11 nations including the US, UK and Germany. The Justice Department released an indictment Tuesday against the individuals, who it identified as Li Xiaoyu and Dong Jiazhi. "Li and Dong, former classmates at an electrical-engineering college in Chengdu, China, used their technical training to hack the computer networks of a wide variety of victims, such as companies engaged in high tech manufacturing; civil, industrial and medical device engineering; business educational and gaming software development; solar energy; and pharmaceuticals," according to the indictment. Companies targeted by the hackers were based in the US, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the UK, the department said.

SOURCE: 21 July 2020, [Bloomberg](#)

(U) Georgia – Personal Information Compromised in Cyber Attack

(U) Cooke County – A cyberattack on the Cooke County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) compromised people's personal information, County Judge Jason Brinkley said. A press release issued yesterday stated a ransomware attack on the county's information system for the CCSO on 4 July resulted in a data breach of personal identification information. Shortly after the data breach, ITWire, an Australian information technology news website, reported that attackers claimed to have used REvil ransomware to attack the Cooke County website.

SOURCE: 20 July 2020, [Gainesville Daily Register](#)

(U) New Jersey – Suspect in Judge's Family Shooting May Have Had Additional Target

(U) North Brunswick – Roy Den Hollander, whom the FBI called the "primary subject" in the shootings at Judge Salas' home in New Jersey may have been targeting at least one other female judge. After investigators searched the car in which Hollander was found dead of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound they also discovered the name and photo of New York State' Chief Judge Janet DiFiore. Hollander is suspected of shooting and killing the son of Judge Esther Salas as well as her husband in an attack at the family's New Jersey home on Sunday night. The suspect had previously received media attention for lawsuits challenging perceived infringements of "men's rights," on networks like Fox News, Comedy Central, and MSNBC.

SOURCE: 21 July 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Murders Hit New High in First Half of 2020

(U) Mexico City – Murders in Mexico edged up to a new record high in the first half of 2020, despite easing during the last few months, preliminary government data showed yesterday. In the first six months of 2020, there were 17,439 murders, a 1.7% increase on the same period last year, according to figures presented by Security Minister Alfonso Durazo. While murders fell in June by 2.2% compared with the previous month, the third consecutively monthly drop, Durazo conceded the figures remained "very high in absolute terms."

SOURCE: 20 July 2020, [Reuters](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Ukraine – Armed Former Convict Holds 20 Bus Passengers Hostage in Ukraine

(U) Lutsk – Ukrainian police were holding tense negotiations Tuesday with a former convict armed with explosives who took 20 people hostage in a bus and claimed to have planted a remote-controlled device in the western city of Lutsk. Police cordoned off the center of Lutsk, some 250 miles from the capital Kiev, and asked residents not to leave their homes or places of work. Police said the SBU security services, which combat terrorism and are involved in counterintelligence, surrounded the bus after two shots were fired from it.

SOURCE: 21 July 2020, [International Business Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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